AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (withdrawn) A method of making a structurally stable hydroentangled flame-retardant nonwoven fabric comprising the steps of:

a. providing a first layer precursor web comprising a blend of lyocell fiber and modacrylic fiber;

b. providing a second precursor web comprising a blend of lyocell fiber, modacrylic fiber, and para-amid fiber;

c. positioning said first precursor web atop said second precursor web; and

d. hydroentangling said first and second precursor webs so as to form said nonwoven fabric.

Claim 2 (withdrawn) A method of making a structurally stable hydroentangled flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein said first layer comprises a blend of 60% lyocell fiber and 40% modacrylic fiber.

Claim 3 (withdrawn) A method of making a structurally stable hydroentangled flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein said second layer comprises a blend of 42% lyocell fiber, 37% modacrylic fiber, and 21% para-amid fiber.

Claim 4 (withdrawn) A method of making a structurally stable three-dimensionally imaged flame-retardant nonwoven fabric comprising the steps of:

a. providing a first layer precursor web comprising a blend of lyocell fiber and modacrylic fiber;

b. providing a second precursor web comprising a blend of lyocell fiber, modacrylic fiber, and para-amid fiber;

c. providing a three-dimensional image transfer device;

d. positioning said first precursor web atop said second precursor web;

e. advancing said first and second precursor webs onto said three-dimensional image transfer device; and

f. hydroentangling said first and second precursor webs so as to form said imaged nonwoven fabric.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A structurally-stable hydroentangled flame retardant, nonwoven fabric comprising a nonwoven first layer and a nonwoven second layer, said first layer consists essentially of a blend of lyocell fiber and modacrylic fiber and said second layer comprises a blend of lyocell fiber, modacrylic fiber, and para-amid fiber, wherein said first and second layers are in a directly adjacent, hydroentangled united arrangement forming said fabric, and wherein para-amid fiber is sufficiently absent from the first layer effective that the first layer masks discoloration of the second layer associated with para-amid fiber present therein.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A structurally stable three-dimensionally imaged flame retardant, nonwoven fabric has a three-dimensional fabric pattern, and said fabric comprising a first layer and a second layer, wherein said first layer consists essentially of a blend of lyocell fiber and modacrylic fiber and said second layer comprises a blend of lyocell fiber, modacrylic fiber, and para-amid fiber, wherein said first and second layers are in a directly adjacent, hydroentangled united arrangement forming said fabric having the three-dimensional fabric pattern, and wherein para-amid fiber is sufficiently absent from the first layer effective that the first layer masks discoloration of the second layer associated with para-amid fiber present therein.

Claim 7 (previously presented) A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric in accordance with claim 5, wherein said first layer comprises a blend of 60% lyocell fiber and 40% modacrylic fiber.

Claim 8 (previously presented) A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric in accordance with claim 5, wherein said second layer comprises a blend of 42% lyocell fiber, 37% modacrylic fiber, and 21% para-amid fiber.

Claim 9 (previously presented) A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric in accordance with claim 6, wherein said first layer comprises a blend of 60% lyocell fiber and 40% modacrylic fiber.

Claim 10 (previously presented) A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric in accordance with claim 6, wherein said second layer comprises a blend of 42% lyocell fiber, 37% modacrylic fiber, and 21% para-amid fiber.